

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7378

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: MEETING OF GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN  
ROME

REF: ROME 7301

DEPARTMENT PASS THE SECRETARY

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (FRANCHETTI) RESPONSIBLE FOR GREEK-TURKISH AFFAIRS HAS PROVIDED US WITH A RUN DOWN OF THE BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETINGS IN ROME BASED ON SUMMARIES HE RECEIVED OF THE TALKS OF EACH FOREIGN MINISTER WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR AND ON HIS OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR STAFFS AT THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURES FROM ROME. THE ITALIANS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SOME LIMITED PROGRESS WAS MADE TOWARD SETTling OUTSTANDING POLITICAL ISSUES DIVIDING THE COUNTRIES, BUT FEEL THAT THE MOST POSITIVE ASPECT OF THE TALKS WAS THE EXCEEDINGLY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THEY TOOK PLACE. FRANCHETTI STRESSED THAT NEITHER SIDE CAME TO ROME EXPECTING TO RESOLVE THE MAJOR OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS BUT EACH HOPED TO SET THE STAGE FOR FURTHER TALKS. THE ITALIANS BE-  
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LIEVE THIS LATTER OBJECTIVE WAS ACHIEVED.

2. ACCORDING TO FRANCHETTI, CYPRUS WAS THE MAIN SUBJECT DISCUSSED BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION WAS APPROACHED DIFFERENTLY BY THE TWO SIDES WITH THE TURKS APPARENTLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN BROADER TERMS. TWO COMMISSIONS OF EXPERTS HANDLED THE BULK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE OFFICIAL AGENDA ITEMS, I.E., THE AEGEAN ISLANDS QUESTION AND BILATERAL ISSUES.

3. FROM THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE PARTICIPANTS, THE ITALIANS HAVE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TURKS LEFT ROME SOMEWHAT MORE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS THAN THE GREEKS. ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, THE ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT THE GREEKS INDICATED SOME MEASURE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE BIZONAL CONCEPT WHILE THE TURKS MAY HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE BORDER DIVIDING THE TWO COMMUNITIES. FRANCHETTI NOTED THAT CAGLAYANGIL HAD TOLD RUMOR THAT ARCHBISHOP MARKARIOS REPRESENTS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO FORWARD MOVEMENT IN SETTLING THE DISPUTE.

4. TURNING TO THE AEGEAN QUESTION, FRANCHETTI HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT NO REAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THIS AREA WITH THE TURKS PRESSING FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION, POSSIBLY WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. CAGLAYANGIL MENTIONED TO RUMOR THE IDEA OF JOINT EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE AREA. THE GREEKS, HOWEVER, REMAINED COMMITTED TO SUBMITTING THE PROBLEM TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT. ON BILATERAL ISSUES, IT APPEARS THAT THE MOST PROGRESS WAS MADE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF THE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR). BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, A SIGN, AS THE ITALIANS INTERPRET IT, THAT MOST OF THE THORNY POINTS ON THIS QUESTION HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

5. FRANCHETTI OBSERVED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE DEMIREL INTERVIEW IN "LE MONDE" ON MAY 19 HAD CLOUDED THE FINAL PHASES OF THE TALKS. CARAMANLIS HAD INSTRUCTED BITSIOS BY TELEPHONE TO EMPHASIZE TO HIS TURKISH COUNTERPART THE NEGATIVE REACTION THE HARD LINE OF THE INTERVIEW WAS HAVING ON GREEK PUBLIC OPINION. THE GREEKS ALSO MADE A FORMAL PROTEST

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TO THE TURKS IN ANKARA. IN THE WAY OF AN EXPLANATION, THE TURKS RESPONDED TO THE GREEKS THAT THE INTERVIEW HAD BEEN GIVEN ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO. THE ITALIANS UNDERSTAND THAT THE APPEARANCE OF THE INTERVIEW WAS THE MAIN REASON THAT AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED ON A MEETING BETWEEN CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL ON THE MARGIN OF THE NATO SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH IT STILL REMAINS A STRONG POSSIBILITY.

6. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TIALIANS, BITSIOS HINTED  
THAT THE TURKISH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS WAS  
MADE WITH AN EYE TO INFLUENCE (#)

ITALY'S  
KEEN INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS ISSUE IN PARTICULAR AND GREEK-  
TURKISH PROBLEMS IN GENERAL. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WHAT-  
EVER INFORMATION WE MIGHT PROVIDE HIM FOR HIS SUPERIORS ON  
BILATERAL ASPECTS OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO  
ANKARA. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED THE SECRETARY.

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TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

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